

Program provides critical safety net to keep Iowa seniors out of poverty

Washington, DC – Congressman Bruce Braley (D-Iowa) released the following statement today in honor of the 75th anniversary of Social Security. President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act into law on August 14, 1935.

“One in five Iowans receives Social Security benefits,” Braley said. “Since it was signed into law during the heart of the Great Depression, Social Security has provided a safety net for America’s seniors, giving them critical assistance to stay out of poverty. These are our parents, grandparents, neighbors and friends. They rely on these funds to keep a roof over their head and food on the table. For many, this critical safety net is their only source of income.

“Social Security has worked for 75 years and I am committed to working with my colleagues to ensure this critical program remains strong and solvent for years to come. Five years ago, President Bush and Washington Republicans sought to privatize Social Security and take away this safety net that keeps our seniors off the street. This legislation would have helped Wall Street, not Main Street. But with the help of the American people, Democrats made sure Washington Republicans did not succeed.

“Once again, Washington Republicans are trying to strip seniors of the benefits they rely on just to get by. As we celebrate the 75th anniversary of this monumental legislation, I want Iowa’s seniors to know that I will never stop fighting to protect Social Security and keep the promises we made so long ago.”